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State Health and Human Services Names New Tribal Liaison

Carson City, NV— The state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has named Julieta Mendoza as its new Tribal Liaison. As such, she will be responsible for maintaining open lines of communication between Nevada tribes and the divisions within DHHS.

"I am excited to continue to strengthen my relationships with the tribes in a different capacity," said Mendoza, who previously worked for the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada.

"This position truly serves as a liaison to the DHHS director and ensures any concerns the tribes have are addressed timely," said DHHS Deputy Director of Programs Dena Schmidt. "The position attends all tribal meetings and represents the department and provides information regarding all our programs. The focus is generally on Medicaid services and eligibility, but we are striving to educate the tribes about all the other DHHS programs available. This will be done through the quarterly tribal consultation process."

Based in Carson City, Mendoza has a number of duties in this role that pertain to the health and well-being of members of Nevada's 27 tribes. She is a source of technical information and assistance regarding DHHS programs and health-related topics. This means she will help tribal members understand state plan changes, answer Medicaid eligibility questions, and coordinate public health outreach events and information.

Also, Mendoza will facilitate the quarterly Tribal Consultations, which are held in Carson City and video-conferenced to sites in Las Vegas and Elko. These all-day consultations include the opportunity for tribal members to speak to representatives from the DHHS Director's Office and from the divisions of Aging and Disability Services, Public and Behavioral Health, Child and Family Services, Welfare and Supportive Services, and Health Care Financing and Policy.

Finally, Mendoza will assist with the resolution of any conflicts that may arise and assure that tribal members' concerns are brought to the attention of DHHS Director Richard Whitley.

Through Mendoza's work, the department looks forward to a continued strong relationship with each Nevada tribe, working together to build an educated and healthy citizenry.

Mendoza, a native of Reno, was previously employed by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, where she served as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program Director. She holds a bachelor's degree in Community Health Sciences from the University of Nevada, Reno. Mendoza said she loves helping people and is well-positioned to take her prior experience to a higher level working for the state of Nevada.

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